



# City of Rocklin

## Frequently Asked Sign Questions

*Please note this handout is only intended to provide a general overview of the City of Rocklin's Sign Ordinance. You should always check the full [sign ordinance](#) and / or speak to a staff member in the Rocklin Planning Division about your specific signage proposal before you purchase or install any sign.*

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### What is a sign?

"Sign" means a temporary or permanent public display of visible images which, either directly or indirectly, advertises, informs or identifies persons, businesses, commodities, services or ideas by the display of any communicative image or graphic that attracts attention.

### What is the intent of the sign ordinance?

The intent of the sign ordinance is to allow reasonable opportunity for businesses, institutions, and others to identify their locations and / or get their messages to the public while also preserving and improving the appearance of the City by keeping the City's shopping areas and roadways beautiful and uncluttered. To this end the ordinance provides rules and regulations for all signs visible to the public addressing such things as maintenance, location, size, and for temporary signage the length of time a sign can be displayed.

### Where may I view the sign ordinance?

You can find the full text of the Rocklin [sign ordinance](#) on the City of Rocklin web site: [www.rocklin.ca.us/signs](http://www.rocklin.ca.us/signs).

### Do all signs need a permit?

No, there are a lot of signs used every day that do not require a permit including but not limited to address signs, open / closed signs, holiday decorations, menu boards, no trespassing and no parking signs, pending development signs, real estate signs, signs required by Federal or State law, political signs, window signs, vehicle signs, and signs on umbrellas. While a permit is not required for these types of signs there are rules about their size, number, display, and placement that must be followed. Please review the full [sign ordinance](#) and / or contact the Rocklin Planning Division for more information.

### Does my sign need a permit?

Probably, all permanent signs and most temporary signs are required to obtain a sign permit that has been approved by the City of Rocklin Planning Division before the sign goes up. Generally, sign permits are a routine matter that can be approved quickly if you have the completed application form and required drawings when you submit. Please be aware that some types of signs will also require approval of a building permit before they can be erected. Please review the full [sign ordinance](#) and / or contact the Rocklin Planning Division to verify the standards applicable to your signage proposal and what information and drawings you will need to provide along with the completed application form to obtain an approved sign permit. You can also contact the Building Division to determine if your sign will require a building permit.

### What does a permit cost?

Fees related to signs can vary depending upon the type of sign requested. Please look in the City of Rocklin [Fee Schedule](#) or contact the Rocklin Planning Division for the applicable Sign Permit fee. Some permanent signs may also require design review approval and / or a building permit for which there could be additional fees.

### What is a Temporary Sign?

A temporary sign is one that is intended to be used for a limited time only, typically to inform the public about something with a limited duration such as advertising a property that is for sale or lease, notice of a store sale, grand opening, special event or the like.

The sign ordinance allows for the use of temporary signage three (3) times a calendar year for a maximum of 20 days each time with approval of a sign permit. Each sign must have the sign permit number legibly displayed on the sign face or sign structure.

There are a variety of temporary sign types that may be used including but not limited to building mounted banners, A-frame signs, balloons, feather flags, inflatable devices, and commercial mascots (like sign spinners). Not all temporary signs require permits but there are specific rules about the number, size, placement, and display of each sign type that must be adhered too. For additional information please see the hand out on Temporary Signs at [www.rocklin.ca.us/signs](http://www.rocklin.ca.us/signs), the full [Sign Ordinance](#) or contact the Rocklin Planning Division.

### **How big can my sign be?**

The maximum size a sign can be varies depending upon the type of sign, please see the Sign Ordinance for information applicable to your sign.

### **What happens if I don't have a permit for my sign?**

Signs installed without the proper permits are not allowed. If this happens you will be required to obtain any needed permit(s) and make necessary modifications to bring your sign into compliance with the sign ordinance or remove the sign. Failure to correct this kind of problem will result in the issue being turned over to the City's Code Enforcement Division.

### **Are any signs not allowed?**

Yes, generally speaking animated signs, electronic message boards; highly reflective or florescent signs; signs posted on trees, shrubs, fences, utility poles and street lights; signs that move, fly, flash, or blink; roof mounted signs; signs within the public right-of-way; and signs mounted on vehicles whose primary use is to display a commercial message are all examples of prohibited types of signs.

### **Are window signs included in the Sign Ordinance?**

Yes, window signs are covered by the sign ordinance and are defined as a sign attached to, painted upon, or placed on or within eighteen inches of a window or glass door of a building that is intended to be viewed from outside the building. Windows separated by frames less than 4 inches wide are considered to be a single window. A permit is not required for a window sign but they still must comply with rules regarding size and placement. Specifically, window signs cannot cover more the 35% of the area of a given window. Unused signage from one window may not be used on another window.

### **What about real estate and political signs?**

Temporary political signs and real estate signs do not require permits but do have special conditions they must comply with which are listed in the [Sign Ordinance](#).

### **Garage / Yard Sale Signs**

Garage Sale / Yard Sale signs do not require a permit or fee but must comply with the following standards:

- Only one sign, a maximum of 3 square feet in size, is allowed.
- The sign may only be displayed during the garage / yard sale.
- Sign may only be displayed on the site of the yard sale / garage sale, no off-site signs are permitted.
- Signs may not be placed in the public right-of-way, posted on trees, utility poles, traffic sign posts, light posts, traffic signals or any other traffic control device.

### **What if I still have questions?**

If you still have questions pleaser try looking at the [Sign Ordinance](#) on the City's website or contact the Community Development Department:

3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677

Building Division: (916) 625-5120

Planning Division: (916) 625-5160